stated that he has already talked to technicians and their associations, that technicians have come to a certain undertanding, that they are satisfied and that the talks are going on. My information goes that certain higher-ups in the Department of Telecommunications have told the other parties that no assurance has been given about improving the scales of pay of technicians. On the other hand, they have given an assurance that there know what the meaning of "there shall not know what the meaning of 'there shall not be any discrimination" is. What is that discrimination between technicians and telephone operators, between phonemen and linemen and so on? Will the Minister kindly tell the House what exactly had transpired in the dialogue between the Department of Telecommunications and the technicians' associations on the one hand and between the Department of Telecommunications and other organizations like NFTE and FNTO on the other?

SHRI VASANT SATHE: Madam, our policy is to settle all matters between the employees and the management amicably by a dialogue. I personally take interest in such matters as I said in my earlier reply. I myself took the initiative sat with the technicians talked to them and tried to undrstand their problems and solved them. As far as the other employees are concerned, they also had certain demands and they were feeling agitated. We have had a talk with them and I have assured them that we will ensure that no injustice is done to any section of the employees. We can resolve the problems only by a dialogue with them. That is continuing and we shall ensure that there is no room for any provocation from outside quarters.

श्री सत्य प्रकाश मालवीय : माननीय उपसभापति जी, यह जो दूर संचार विभाग के टेक्नीशियस ने अभी हाल में टूल डाउन स्ट्राइक की थी और देश के कई भागों में उनकी हड़ताल हुई थी तो इस स्ट्राइक के पहले उन्होंने विभाग को एक नोटिस भी दिया था, मैं यह जानना चाहता हूं कि टूल डाउन स्ट्राइक करने से पहले विभाग को जो नोटिस उन्होंने दिया था उसमें उन्होंने अपनी क्या-क्या मांगें रखी थी ?

श्री वसंत साठे : वे मांगे जो उन्होंने की थीं उन पर तो बात भी हो गयी, तय भी हो गया, अब क्या उखाड़ना चाहते हैं ?

श्री सत्य प्रकाश मालवीय : मैं उसको जानना चाहता हूं ।

श्री वसंत साठे : अभी मेरे पास वह नही है । मैं आपको बाद में भेज दूंगा ।

श्री राम चन्द्र विकल : मैं माननीय मंत्री महोदय से जानना चाहता हूं कि जो उन्होंने कहा कि टैक्नीशियंस के साथ संतोषजनक बातें हो गई हैं, तो वह बातें कौन सी हैं जिन पर संतोषजनक बातें हुई ? पहली बात ।

दूसरी बात मैं यह जानना चाहता हूं कि सरकार का जिस पर मतैक्य है या विवाद है, वह कौन से प्रश्न अभी उलझे हुए हैं जिनसे आप सहमत नहीं है ?

श्री वसंत साठे : उसका जवाब तो मैंने पहले ही दे दिया है ?

Hydro electric projects in the North Eastern region

*265. SHRI K. MOHANAN:†
SHRI NIRMAL CHATTERJEE:

Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the north-eastern region has the highest hydro-power potential in the country;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof;

(c) whether there are any plans to set up some more hydro-power projects in the north-eastern region; and

†The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri K. Mohanan.

(d) if so, what are the details thereof and by when these projects are likely to be set up?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POWER IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRIMATI SUSHILA ROHATGI): (a) to (d) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) It is estimated that the hydroelectric potential in the North-eastern region is 31,857 MW a 60 per cent load factor.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) It is estimated that the hydroelectric projects with a total capacity of about 238 MW are under implementation in the North-eastern region for benefits in the remaining period of the Seventh Plan and the Eight Plan period. Project report of nine hydroelectric projects with an aggregate capacity of about 1077 MW are under techno-economic appraisal in the Central Electricity Authority. In addition, the Brahmaputra Board is considering some basic issues, such as utilisation of the power generated, in regard to the implementaiton of large power projects in the North eastern region.

SHRI K. MOHANAN: Everybody knows that hydel projects are the cheapest source of energy. As far as the north-east region is concerned, it has the highest hydel power potention in the country. It is estimated at 40,000 MW of hydel power potention in this region. Even in the reply it is stated that the hydorelectric potential in the north-eastern region is 31,857 MW at 60 per cent load factor. Even if this is correct, it will constitute some 26 to 28 per cent of the total reserve of the country. But unfortunately we are tapping only 3 per cent of the reserve in this region. In this reply it is stated that major and medium hydoelectric projects with a total capacity of about 238 MW are under implementation and another 1077 MW projects are under consideration. Even both of these will come to 1300 MW or so. The capacity is more than 31,857 MW and are only tapping a mere 3 per cent of the total reserve of the country. So, will the Government have any comprehensive idea to tap this hydel water resource from this region in a most effective manner?

SHRIMATI SUSHILA ROHATGI: It is true that hydel is the cheapest form of generation and the north-east possesses a very great quantity of this potential. As a matter of fact, about 32,000 MW of electricity can be generated through hydel in this particular sector which comes to 38 per cent of the total hydel potential in the country which is about 84,000 MW. At present we are only tapping about 1-1|2 per cent: about .5 per cent so far as north-east is concerned and another 1.5 is under construction. But the main is though there is great capacity. there are many other factors involved. There are two very major projects which have been evaluated, which have been examined and which have been formulated also by the Brahmputra Board. One of them is as big as 24,000 MW in Rihand another is of 4,000 MW. But a lot of area will have to be submerged and the State Government concerned is not prepared for that. Another problem is the amount of resources that will be required. Though we are very keen to give a push to the hydel sector because it is pollution-free, it is also cheaper, but we realise submergence is a very, very important point and also we do not have the required resources at our disposal.

SHRI K. MOHANAN: As regards the southern region, the State of Kerala is completely dependent on hydel projects and the Minister very well knows that for the last six years we are facing a very severe drought situation. And the situation in that State regarding power generation and its utilisation is very serious. If I am correct some nine hydroelectric project reports are before the Government of India pending at various stages for the last several years. Some of the project reports are pending for the last nine years. Recently it was reported that the Government was thinking of giving permission to certain

hydroelectric projects and two or three projects are in the final stage for getting sanction from the Government. One of them is the Poyankutty Hydroelectric Project to which the Canadian Government has already extended its support. And I think, an agreement is in the offing.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Please put your question.

SHRI K. MOHANAN: May I ask the honourable Minister whether the Government will take the serious situation facing the State of Kerala into consideration regarding power generation and will give sanction to at least some of the hydroelectric projects which are at the final stage of consideration?

SHRIMATI SUSHILA ROHATGI: Madam, for the information of the honourable Member, if I may just simply say, Kerala is certainly not in the North-East region. But we are very much aware of the fact that Kerala has been facing an acute shortage of power and we have been trying to rush as much from the neighbouring States and from the Central sector as possible. But still there has been severe drought and Kerala is facing a difficult situaton. I am not aware whether any project has been pending for the last nine years. But we will try to see that as soon as the tie-ups are finalised, these are cleared. Then, Madam, I shall try to find out about the particular project which the honuorable Member has now mentioned and I will let him know about it.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Yes, Mr. Nirmal Chatterjee.

SHRI NIRMAL CHATTERJEE: Madam, there is one thing in common between Kerala and the North-East and that is....

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Non-Congress(I) Governments! ... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI NIRMAL CHATTERJEE: Madam, there is one thing in common between Kerala and the North East and that is that they both are, situated at long distance away from Delhi. But the interesting feature of the North-East, on which everybody agrees also except during the election time, is the neglect of that area. They are so far away that even Indianness has to be preached there even today! The hydro-electric potential there visits that area unlike Kerala. Therefore, this potential is, in a sense, much more significant than anywhere else in the country. Now, the interesting part of the Minister's reply is that the Brahmaputra Board is considering some basic issues. What is that? That is the utilisation of the power generated. Everybody knows, particularly after the Soviet revolution, that it is electricity which leads, it is power which leads, and it does not follow, development of industries. I can also remind the House of the famous saying of Lenin in this regard. Here, Madam, the issue to be considered is this....

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: What is your question?

SHRI NIRMAL CHATTERJEE: My question is whether it is possible, instead of considering such issues, for the Government of India for the sake of India's integrity—I want to underline this—to take a speedy decision and fix a time-schedule, at least by the end of the century or before 1995, to see that projects for utilisation of at least fifty per cent of this potential would be formulated and implemented.

SHRIMATI SUSHILA ROHATGI: Madam, I would like to ask the honourable Member where the resources are for utilising this 50 per cent and I hope the honourable Member would be willing to give that information to me. But, apart from that he says that one of the reasons for the backwardness or difficulties arising in the North-East and Kerala is the long distance from Delhi. That is not so. It is because of the fact that the demand for power in that particular region, i.e. the North-East, is lacking and more demand for power should be built up and the position there has been quite comfortable though it could improve and, by the end of the Seventh Plan, Madam, and also in the

Eighth Plan, the North-Eastern Region would be having surplus power. With that position, the question is how to build up the demand. Even though West Bengal is basically a neighbouring State, it is based on thermal source. At the same time, we have to take power generated from the North-East and we will have to carry it through long transmission lines and it has to pass through very difficult terrains. All these factors are there. Therefore, how the utilisation of 50 per cent of the potential can take place, only the honourable Member should tell and if he can make that statement, we would be grateful to him.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Shri *Majhi*.

SHRI PRITHIBI MAJHI: Madam, just now the honourable Minister has said that the Dihang project will submerge large areas. I want to know in this connection how many families will be affected by this process of submergence. And how many acres of land will be submerged by these two Dihang and Subansiri Hydel Projects and whether a survey has been made for this?

SHRIMATI SUSHILA ROHATGI: Madam, we do not have the exact figures. But we know that the Arunachal Pradesh Government has serious reservations about the area which is going to be submerged.

SHRI BIR BHADRA PRATAP SINGH: Madam, the Professor has very rightly said that even when there is drought prevailing in the rest of the country so, far as the hydel power generation is concerned, the north-eastern region can provide electricity to the entire nation in a major portion. The whole question is, why are we wasting our resources in other regions when there is the likelihood of drought in other regions? Now, in Arunachal Pradesh itself, I have made this study. Micro, mini, small, medium and major resources generate 30,000 MW electricity, and like Himachal Pradesh there is no difficulty. So why are you not diverting your resources from other regions to that region, which can provide electricity to the entire nation.

SHRIMATI SUSHILA ROHATGI: Madam, I have already tried to explain that. One is the submerging of the land and acceptance by the State concerned. Second is the financial resources. I totally agree with the hon. Member that we must try to tap more of the hydel resources—small, mini, micro and large as they are—and that is our aim. At the same time, Madam, we are going ahead. And this year, in spite of the fact that hydel generation was 16 per cent below the target, it was made up by 16 per cent by thermal power. Therefore, this ratio will also have to be maintained in the larger interests of the country.

SHRI DHARAM CHANDER PRASHANT: Madam, in the north, river Chenab has the highest power potential. This river comes from Himachal and it passes through Jammu and goes to Pakistan. The length of this river is 90 miles. Two hydel projects are there; one is being completed and another is in progress. One is Dulhasti and another is Salal. There are six more places where hydel projects can be taken up. Is the Government thinking of taking up these places for hydel power generation.

SHRIMATI SUSHILA ROHATGI: We are trying to tap as much as possible all the resources. We are also trying to seek external assistance. In Jammu and Kashmir, as the hon. Member is aware, we have Dulhasti and Uri. These are already there and for these we are seeking external assistance. If there are some other stages we can look into that also.

DR. R. K. PODDAR: Madam, will the hon. Minister kindly tell us, what is the potential of mini, micro hydel projects in the north-eastern States? The Minister has stated that a large hydel power project is likely to inundate large tracts of land, and that is one disadvantage. So I would like to ask the hon. Minister whether she would give weightage on the mini and micro hydel power stations in the north-eastern region.

SHRIMATI SUSHILA ROHATGI: Yes, we are trying to encourage mini and micro hydel plants, Madam. And these are not only taken up by the States themselves but the NHPC and NIPCO are also assisting some of the States. At the same

time, the Rural Electrification Corporation has recently taken up schemes on demonstration basis. And I think it is our endeavour to go in more and more for these.

श्री अश्विनी कुमार : माननीय उपसभापति महोदया, हाइडल-प्रोजेक्टस के बारे में चर्चा हो रही है । मेरा एक स्पष्ट मंत्री महोदया से जानना है कि क्या सरकार हाइडल प्रोजेक्टस को पीछे रख रही है और थर्मल-प्रोजेक्टस को आगे ले जा रही है ? रिहंद डेम के ऊपर पांच थर्मल प्रोजेक्टस लगाए जा रहे हैं, अधिकांश केन्द्रीय सरकार लगा रही है, और जहां तक सबमर्जेन्स का सवाल है, बड़े-बड़े प्रोजेक्ट्स जैसे नर्मदा प्रोजेक्ट अभी क्लिअर किया गया तथा और प्रोजेक्ट्स अभी क्लिअर किए जा रहे हैं । मैं मंत्री महोदय से यह जानना चाहूंगा कि रिहंद और भसुगारी में 5 हजार से ज्यादा आदमी नहीं उजड़ रहे हैं और पांच हजार स्क्वेअर किलोमीटर से ज्यादा जगह नहीं ली जा रही है और जहां तक रिसोर्सेज का सवाल है और अगर रिसर्सेज थर्मल में लगाया जा सकता है तो वहां भी लग सकता है । दूसरा जो इसका एक लाभ होगा कि हर साल ब्रह्मपुत्र में बाढ़ आने से आसाम और बंगाल को नुकसान होता है वह भी नहीं होगा । तीसरे हिमाचल में जब पावर सरप्लस हुई तो इंडस्ट्रीज वहां भागनी शुरू हुई । आप अरुणाचल में पावर सरलस कर देंगे तो वे आसाम में डौड़ी हुई जाएंगी और पूर्वांचल में भारत में दिल्ली से दूर होने की, इंटीग्रेशन की भावना नहीं है इसके लिए उसको देना चाहिए । रिसोसज के बारे में जहां तक मेरा ख्याल है अगर सरकार मन बना लेगी तो रिसोर्सेस की कोई कमी नहीं है और जैसा मैंने रिहंद, सुभगतरी के सबमर्जेस का बताया और हायडल को महत्व क्यों नहीं दिया जा रहा है, इसका कारण कृपया बताएं ?

श्रीमती सुशीला रोहतगी : माननीय उपसभापति महोदय, इसमे कई मौलिक प्रश्न उठे है। मैं माननीय सदस्य से बिल्कुल सहमत हूं कि हमें हायडल के ऊपर ज्यादा ध्यान देना चाहिए । थर्मल पर ज्यादा ध्यान दिया गया है और हमारे सातवें प्लान में सात सुपर थर्मल प्लांट्स आ रहे हैं जिससे हमारा जनरेशन बढ़ेगा । साथ ही-साथ हमारी और भी योजनाएं बन रही हैं जैसे कि टिहरी प्रोजेक्ट की योजना बनी है । दूसरी नाथ्था जाफरी की हिमाचल प्रदेश में भी बनी है और छोटी-छोटी योजनाएं भी बनायी जा रही हैं । लेकिन सबमर्जेस का क्या फिगर है, इस वक्त मेरे पास अकांड़े नहीं हैं पर रिहंद वगैरा का आपने जिक्र किया है यह मल्टीपरपज योजना में ही सम्मिलित की जा सकेगी क्योंकि इससे फ्लड का कंट्रोल भी होगा, ब्रैक का इरोजन भी होगा और साथ-ही-साथ और भी जो बेनेफिट्स एप्रूव करेगी सब पर विचार कर कितनी धनराशि लगेगी इस पर विचार हो रहा है और हम स्वयं समझते हैं कि हायडल पर ज्यादा से ज्यादा विचार हो ।

*266. [*The questioner (Shri Subas Mohanty) was absent. For answer,* vide *cols.* 30-31 infra].

*267. [*The questioner (Shri Ajit Singh) was absent. For answer,* vide *col.* 31-32 infra].

*268. [*The questioner (Shri Ajit P. K. Jogi) was absent. For answer,* Vide *cols.* 32-33 infra].

Price control for Vitamins

@*269. SHRI RAJNI RANJAN SAHU: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Vitamin 'A' for the deficiency of which 40,000 children go blind every year, has not been included in the category of drugs for price control; and

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI J. VENGAL RAO): (a) and (b) Vitamin 'A' has not been included in Category I of Drugs (Prices Control) Order, 1987, as the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, who was asked to identify

@Previously Starred Question 129 transferred from the 2nd March, 1988.